From: Lee Allen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/21/01 9:51am
Subject: Proposed Microsoft settlement

I wish to speak out in opposition to the proposed settlement of the
Microsoft anti-trust suit.

My reasons for this opposition are many, but the primary objections are
in that the proposal is so vague and open to interpretation as to insure
nothing more than continued legal proceedings as Microsoft continues to
leverage it's monopolistic market share in ways that shatter the very
foundations upon which any and all competitive markets must sit.

The market share held by Microsoft is so extreme that Microsoft felt it
was reasonable to not only consider the blocking of all browsers except
it's own product, Internet Explorer, to msn.com they (Microsoft)
actually did block access until public outcry became loud enough to make
them reconsider. While this action by Microsoft in and of itself may not
serve to warn us of the level of this danger, I would like to bring to
your attention that a local radio station here in Seattle, Wa. (KVI 570
am http://www.kvi.com/) has now blocked all access to it's website to
all browsers except Microsoft's Internet Explorer. Should you attempt to
visit this site with other than Internet Explorer, you are presented
this page http://kvi.com/NetscapeUser.asp?Site=KVI.com .

Such actions are contrary to the very foundation of the Internet
........"The power of the Web is in its universality. Access by everyone
regardless of disability is an essential aspect." -- Tim Berners-Lee,
W3C Director and inventor of the World WideWeb. While it is understood
that Mr. Berners probably had in mind physical disabilities when he made
this statement, I have little doubt that he never dreamed that a browser
would become so powerful as to block all others to "information".
Nothing in the W3C standards supports the single browser concept as a
"standard". Indeed, any site that blocks all but IE is also blocking the
editor/browser of the W3C, Amaya http://www.w3.org/Amaya/ . W3C has a
page addressing accessibility http://www.w3.org/WAI/eval/ and it states
"2. Use a graphical user interface (GUI) browser (such as Internet
Explorer, Netscape Navigator, or Opera) and examine the selection of
pages while adjusting the browser settings as follows......."

Your honor, I respectfully submit to you that when a company's product's
have become so pervasive in the market that Radio Stations will abandon
W3C standards for the internet and block access to their sites to anyone
that isn't using a specific browser, then the threat to the public
interest represented by that company is almost beyond comprehension. I
now see that Microsoft is offering as a "settlement" to other law suits
a proposal that only serves to expand it's sphere of influence even
further. I urgently request that you reject the proposed settlement in

the case before you and examine remedies and punishments that will truly
serve the public's interest and not submit to the persuasions of fear.
The American market place is very strong and can easily overcome any
temporary setback more extreme measures may extract from Microsoft at
this time; however, if this monopoly is allowed to continue it's
unbridled growth it, like all other cancers, will one day be so
demanding that it will kill the very host on which it feeds.

Sincerely,
Elbert Lee Allen